

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 19 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 3-10, 13-18 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the remaining claims in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Dhingra and Lamb at the interview held August 23, 2007 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Metois (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0197878). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

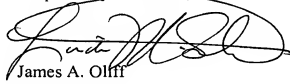
As discussed at the interview and acknowledged by Examiners Dhingra and Lamb, the primary reference Metois, fails to disclose or suggest instantaneous halftone estimation, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 11 and 19. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the §102 rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 11 and 19 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 20 depend from independent claims 1, 11 and 19 respectively, and therefore are patentable for the same reasons, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James A. Oliff', is written over the typed name.

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Date: August 24, 2007

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